

ALLEGES BRUTAL METHODS USED TO MAKE SNOWDEN CONFESS CRIME

Police Said To Have Severely Beaten Up Prisoner Accused of Murdering Brandon Woman—Snowden Testifies That His Life Was Threatened If He Did Not Confess

Knocked down, buffeted, struck over the head, and a loaded revolver leveled at him were some of the means alleged to have been adopted by the police in their efforts to force a confession from John Snowden, was the clearly enunciated statement of the accused man in the Brandon murder case, now in progress at the Towson courthouse. That the prisoner in giving his testimony in a straightforward manner, made a profound impression upon those present, is generally admitted, and the opinion is widespread that the State's case, based solely upon circumstantial evidence of the blindest kind, has received a severe jolt.

Marshal Carter, Deputy Marshal House Thursday morning and testified in rebuttal to the accused man's statement to the "Third Degree" methods employed. They said that they were not brutal toward Snowden.

Rev. Ernest S. Williams, pastor of Ashury M. E. Church, Annapolis, and Rev. Dr. W. A. C. Hughes, a field secretary of the Board of Missions of the M. E. Church, both of whom were on a porch near the Brandon woman's home, on the day of the murder, testified that they heard no struggle in the murdered woman's home on the fatal morning, nor did they see Snowden in the neighborhood. The testimony of Dr. Williams, which was reported in the white papers as "resolvent," was clear and straightforward and at no time did he become nettled in his replies, notwithstanding various attempts by States Attorney Green to confuse him.

Testimony was introduced by other witnesses for the defense that tended to show that the Perkins woman, who testified earlier in the case for the State, could not have seen what was taking place in the fatal room, which was heavily screened.

The testimony of Dr. Louis B. Hankel, the Annapolis Maternity expert, who was to show for the defense how women in Mrs. Brandon's condition could have died under natural circumstances and yet have evidence of foul play, was not allowed by the Court because of his not having been present at either of the two autopsies held over the murdered woman.

When the case was finally given to the jury Thursday night, after Attorney Brady, of Annapolis, for the defense and States' Attorney Green, of Anne Arundel County, had made the closing arguments, the many people present breathed a sigh of relief.

John Snowden had been on trial for his life for the past ten days and the State had not brought out any really convincing proof of his guilt, mainly basing its contention on the allegation made by Mary Perkins and another colored woman that they had seen him leave the Brandon home on the night of the murder.

SNOWDEN A GOOD WITNESS

Snowden, himself, had resisted all third degree methods, which was another count in favor of his innocence. The way he answered the questions put to him by State's Attorney Green made many have confidence in his guiltlessness. He told a clear and straightforward story of his life and of his whereabouts on the night of the murder.

RIDDLES STATE'S SIDE

Attorney G. Gus Crison, who opened for the defense, following the opening argument for the State made by State's Attorney Hartman, of Baltimore County, took up one by one, the various arguments made by the State, showing their illogical clashings and antithetical points. He argued vigorously that the State's contention that the woman had been criminally assaulted, had not been proven; showed up the contradictory stands taken by the State's own witnesses and asked the jury if they would believe the testimony of such witnesses as the State placed its faith upon rather than such reputable men as Rev. W. A. C. Hughes, Rev. E. S. Williams and W. E. Fletcher.

He showed a plat of the murdered woman's house to the jury, when he was arguing that the State had not shown that the colored man had not committed the crime. All eyes were intently upon the attorney when he showed a picture of the dead woman showing one scratch and one juryman trying to show him two.

Taking the testimony of the eleven-year old boy that he had heard the little noise at the Brandon home and heard the door shut on the night of the murder of the white woman, he contrasted it with the testimony of Mary Perkins, who averred that she saw the man leave the house and heard big noise.

He told the jury that they were there to consider the law and facts of the case in a common-sense way and that both showed that Snowden should be acquitted as his guilt had not been proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

BY JENNIE H. ROSS

By now the reading public must be acquainted with the case of John Snowden, the young man, accused of the murder of Lotie May Brandon, at Annapolis, August 8, 1917.

John Snowden was born in Annapolis, 29 years ago, of humble but respectable parents. To read from the reports from the press, then to witness the trial at the Court House at Towson, one would have quite a different impression.

I was unexpectedly made interested in the case by Mrs. Hester Johnson, who was one of a committee from Annapolis, and who made her stay with me while here. After this, I was requested to give my impressions of the trial.

On Thursday, January 24th, I went to the Towson Court House. There I met a number of Baltimoreans as well as a goodly number of Annapolitans, who were there to witness the trial of a man whom they believed to be innocent of the crime for which he was on trial. The delegation from Annapolis included Mrs. Fannie Briscoe, Mrs. Hester Johnson, Mrs. Rosa Norwood, Mrs. Lizzie Carter, Rev. Ernest S. Williams, Rev. J. A. Briscoe, and a number of others. These were part of a committee that raised \$223.81 to employ legal aid for the accused man. The Baltimoreans present included Dr. J. G. Martin, Rev. A. L. Batley, Rev. Custus, Lawyers George L. Pendleton, George W. F. McMechen, Mrs. Coleman and Mrs. Blake. Rev. W. A. C. Hughes, of Washington, one of the secretaries for the Mission Board of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who came from the South to testify in behalf of Snowden, was also present.

The fact that the woman's body was examined a week after her death, which was several days after her burial, and the plain account given of himself by Snowden, as well as the arguments made by the attorneys for the defense and their main witnesses made the man's guilt seem almost impossible.

Judge Duncan was fair at all stages of the trial and this was shown when some whites attempted to applaud when State's Attorney Hartman pictured Snowden in black terms. The Judge simply threatened to put the offenders out if they repeated the offense.

I heard the testimony of Mary Perkins, the little Bisco boy, who does not look a day over 10 years of age, though they say he is eleven; Dr. Hopkins, Dr. Carr, Dr. Joyce and Ida Buren. Their testimony, to me, did not convict, especially when

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I sat through all the trial, remain-
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made, hoping for the man's acquittal,
but certain that appeal would be made
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when it meant the taking of a man's
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